



# Wilson Residents and Ratepayers' Association

Website: <http://wrra.org.au>

E-Mail: [secretary@wrra.org.au](mailto:secretary@wrra.org.au)

Send all correspondence to: 3 McManus Street, Wilson, WA 6107

Winter 2010

**WRRRA represents you in Wilson by working co-operatively with:**

- *City of Canning*
- *Mason Ward Councillors*
- *Canning River Regional Park Community Advisory Committee*
- *WA Government Depts.*
- *Neighbourhood Watch program & WA Police*
- *State & Federal Government Politicians*
- *Wilson Wetlands Action Group Inc. and other community groups*
- *Community Newspapers*

**The WRRRA Committee currently meets on the first Monday of every 2nd month at Wilson Community Hall @ 7.30pm.**

**New members are welcome.**

*Next meeting: 7 JUNE 2010.*

## Editorial

Dear Wilson residents,

We in Wilson are fortunate indeed to have along most of the suburb's southern boundary, the Canning River Regional Park (CRRP). This amenity and the recently opened Eco-centre at Kent Street add immeasurably to the area's desirability as a place to live.

Most week-ends it is enjoyed by walkers, cyclists, boaties and picnickers with many visitors travelling considerable distances to enjoy the area.

In recent times, the park has received some setbacks on various fronts such as the withdrawal of funding for staff at the Eco-centre, pollution problems arising from the March storm resulting in dead fish and the stalling of discussions for land purchase. The land acquisition issue and staffing

problems at DEC have resulted in the extension of the dual-use path extension towards Castledare being delayed. Add to this the ongoing pollution from algal blooms in high summer and the death of the dolphins in the lower Swan and it would appear that all is not well.

This in fact is not so, as all the above problems are currently being addressed by the appropriate bodies up to ministerial level prompted by input from **WRRRA**, **WWAG** (Wilson Wetlands Action Group) and members of the public.

We urge you to visit and enjoy the CRRP and support the City of Canning and all the organisations and individuals who work towards improving local amenities including the new kiosk at Riverton Jetty Park, soon to be opened.

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7 July 2010 at 7:30pm.**

**Wilson Community Hall  
Braibrise Road (Near Armstrong Road)**

**All Wilson residents welcome to attend.**

For more information, or have issues to raise, contact Kerry Malone on 9356 9502, Email [secretary@wrra.org.au](mailto:secretary@wrra.org.au) or attend the meeting.

## FERN ROAD TRAFFIC

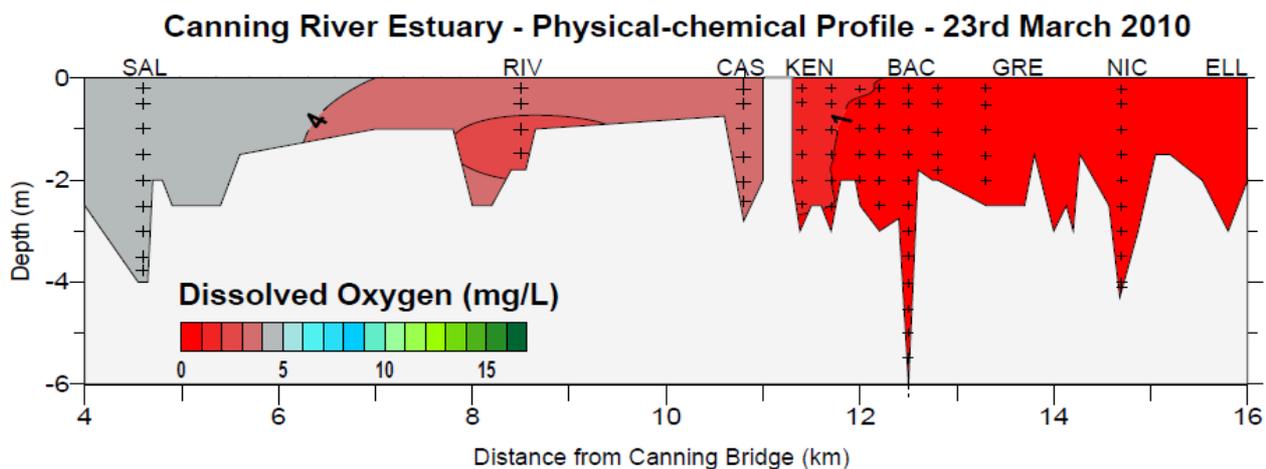
**WRRA** has raised the issue of the large volume of traffic on Fern Road between Bungaree Road and Riverton Bridge. The amount of traffic on this residential street significantly impacts on the residents' quality of living by the increases in noise level, restricting access to Fern Road during peak hours and the likelihood of serious accidents near the Riverton Jetty Park kiosk and playground.

The City of Canning has advised **WRRA** that Fern Road is classified as a local distributor road and is currently carrying up to 40% more vehicles than intended under this classification. The main problem is motorists trying to avoid the bottleneck on Leach Highway caused by 6 lanes going into 4 across Shelley Bridge. **WRRA** intend lobbying Main Roads WA, State and Federal members of Parliament to have Shelley Bridge upgraded to 6 lanes.

## CANNING RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL TRAGEDY

**The storm on 21 March 2010 had a devastating impact on the middle-to-upper reaches of the Canning River.**

As widely reported in the media, dissolved oxygen levels in the Canning River upstream from Kent St Weir dropped to near-zero levels following the storm [see diagram] and remained at that level for an extended period. Marine life can't survive under these conditions.



source: <http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au/science/river/Vertical%20plots%20archive/canningrivervp2010.aspx>

More than a week after the storm (on 1 April 2010), the Water Corporation finally released a Media Statement acknowledging that 35 of its' wastewater pumping stations discharged an estimated **21 million litres** of wastewater [raw sewerage] into the Canning, Southern or Swan rivers, due to the prolonged loss of mains power. The largest discharge being 4 million litres from a single pumping station in Lake Road, Forrestdale.

If that wasn't bad enough, another 65 wastewater pumping stations (approx. 100 in total) discharged wastewater into the environment, as a combination of on-site emergency storage facilities and emergency power provisions proved to be grossly inadequate.

In its media release, Water Corporation's media spokesperson Phil Kneebone is quoted as saying that "Wastewater is more than 99 per cent water and that combined with the huge surges of stormwater entering the rivers and other outlets ensured that the discharges resulted in only negligible impact on the environment".

Given the health warnings issued by the Health Department regarding the dangers of swimming or fishing in the Canning River for a period of approx. 2 weeks after the storm, and the widely reported sightings of both dead fish and raw sewerage, it's difficult to accept this claim!

**Surely more can (and should) be done to prevent this environmental tragedy happening again!**

## UNDERGROUND POWER SURVEY RESULTS

During December 2009, your committee undertook a survey of Wilson residents south of Leach Highway, to provide us with guidelines as to whether **WRRA** should support the Canning City Council's nominations for installation of underground power (UGP), throughout this area.

Unfortunately, whilst the number of residents who responded to the survey was disappointingly low, the results indicated strong support of 96% of respondents having a preference for the timely installation of underground power. 4% were not in favour of UGP due mainly on the grounds of an extra cost burden that these projects impose on the family budget.

Subsequent to our submission of the survey results to the City of Canning, the Mayor advised that the area of Wilson East which is that area of Wilson south of Leach Highway but excluding the Kent Street Precinct, has missed out in the current round of the States's Underground Power Programme, The Office of Energy had decided to offer UGP to the residents of Bentley East, The Mayor also advised that an information meeting was to be held in the Bentley Community Hall on 11 March 2010 at which representatives of Western Power and City of Canning would be present to discuss the proposed installation and anticipated costs to the residents of the area.

Whilst we did not get the guernsey this time around, a number of our committee attended the meeting and had placed on record an interest in having the area of Wilson south of Leach Highway placed on the reserve list in the event that residents of Bentley voted against the scheme, or alternatively be considered in the next review/allocation of urban areas for underground power which we believe is scheduled to take place in June/July 2010.

**WRRA** will continue in its efforts to support the nomination of the Kent Street Precinct for inclusion in the Underground Power Programme in the future.

## CANNING RIVER ECO EDUCATION CENTRE

by Canning City Council

The Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) is now starring in the Latest Lotterywest 'Catch a falling star' advertising campaign. Local environmental groups, families and children are invited to participate in the filming of the advertisement that focuses on the dedicated work of the volunteers and the environmental education of young people.

The Centre received funding of \$23,000 from Lotterywest, when it first opened, to purchase display systems, furniture, audio visual and office equipment. This grant was given to support the community based educational activities.

Although CREEC has only been operating for two years, it now plays a major role in protecting the habitat of the wildlife that has found refuge in this suburban wilderness.

Funding for the Education Officer was provided for the first two years by the then Department of Education and Training, however this has not been renewed due to budget cuts. "It is disappointing that the funding is not being continued as the Centre plays a vital role in the environmental education of not only our young people but also across the wider community," Mayor Delle Donne said. "I will be pursuing every opportunity to have this position secured, including corporate sponsorship of programmes and educational activities."

"Lotterywest saw the value in the role the Centre plays in the future of our environment," the Mayor continued. "Of 1300 community grants given last year, only two were chosen to be part of this extensive campaign."

The Centre is situated on the banks of the Canning River and within the Canning River Regional Park. Officially opened in June 2008, the Eco Centre aims to increase the awareness and understanding of the Canning River and surrounding Regional Park through the establishment of environmental education programmes and activities.

"The Canning River Regional Park is the Kings Park of the south and thanks to the efforts of so many volunteers and City staff it is a place of great natural beauty," the Mayor said. "The Eco Centre will continue to play a major conservation and education role within this great park."

All enquiries can be directed to CREEC on 9461 7160.

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**Steve Irons MP**  
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Office phone: 08 9355 0099  
 Address: 2 Mint Street,  
 East Victoria Park

Email: [Steve.Irons.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Steve.Irons.MP@aph.gov.au)  
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